



What's Happening at AHCC?

September 9th, 2020

Hi everyone! Fall has arrived! I don't know about you, but I'm definitely ready to throw on the sweater and my nice cozy jeans. Cold weather here we come!

As usual, please see below for our ongoing coronavirus response and AHCC happenings.

COVID-19 Update

It's been good news the past month as new COVID-19 cases in Washington State continue dropping. I heard on the news the other day that our current "R" number (Reproductive Number), which is the ratio at which an infected person infects someone else, is right around 1.0. This means for every person that gets sick, they infect one other person. Washington State's goal is to get below 1.0, which would mean COVID-19 is no longer spreading but shrinking. Hopefully we get below 1.0 soon.

Because not much has changed in regards to King County phases, we continue to adopt a philosophy of making ministry plans, but holding those plans loosely. Our staff and leadership have been utilizing a framework to give us direction, intentionality and clarity in this season. Our two fundamental goals continue to be stay on mission with Jesus and remain relationally connected. Our hope of course is to open up more ministries and gatherings as the fall progresses.

Sunday Service

Our two morning services, at 9:00 and 10:30, continue to go well. I would ask two things of us though to help make them even better.

First, please make every effort to sign up on our [COVID-19 page](#) as early as possible during the week. This helps us get our numbers figured out and organized for the morning.

Secondly, would you consider moving to the 9:00 am service? I know, "but I have to get up earlier!" Yes, you will have to get up earlier, but take heart to know this will help make room for visitors and increased capacity for church members. Thank you for considering this.

Also, if you have not joined us on a Sunday yet, you will need to review the "Sunday Service Reopening Guidelines & Procedures" document on the COVID-19 page referenced above or on our church Facebook page. This document details the specific procedures we're following at our Sunday service and expectations we ask you to follow to safely return.

Please continue checking our website and Facebook page for additional information and updates.

Lastly, while we're now gathering as a church at our building on Sundays, we're still offering our service on the platforms below. Please note we will **only** be streaming the 10:30 AM service.

- Facebook livestream - <https://www.facebook.com/ArborHeightsCommunityChurch/>
- On Mondays, after the Sunday service, on our [AHCC YouTube Channel](#).
- On Sunday afternoon, the message is available on our website at www.arborheights.org under "Resources" then "Sermons".

RightNow Media

If you have not been with us in the past couple weeks, we launched an incredible new discipleship resource at the end of August. We now have a subscription to [RightNow Media](#), the world's largest online video library of Christian videos! They have videos on parenting, finances, leadership, marriage, work, bible studies, children, and about anything else you could think of. Here is the amazing part; everyone in our church has received a license!! This means you can create an account and access all 25,000 videos whenever you want in the comfort of your own home.

You should have received an email from RightNow Media a couple of weeks ago. If you did not see it, check your "Spam" folder. If it's not there, please contact our office for assistance. If you did see the email, click on "Get Started" to create an account and off you go! Please use this resource as much as you'd like as it's free to you!

Ministries

Children's & Family Ministry

Because of the COVID-19 restrictions, we are continuing to have a Children's Ministry Moment during the Sunday service, but not offer children's programming. We are evaluating this possibility for the fall.

Leah is launching a new resource for families at the beginning of October called "country of the month". Through our partnership with IncaLink, they've provided a monthly packet for families that includes information about a country, games, activities, recipes and devotionals. This will be a really fun way for families to grow closer by learning about different countries and what God is doing in those places.

Leah also doing a "Mom's Night In" on Tuesday, September 29th at 8:00 pm at the building. The moms will follow COVID guidelines and enjoy some time catching up and connecting.

Lastly, one of the things we're looking at this fall is a Marriage Class. Marriage help, resources and equipping was one of the top requests in our class survey this past spring. More to come on this as we get into the fall.

If you have any additional questions about Children's & Family Ministry, please reach out to Leah at leah@arborheights.org.

Community Groups

Now that fall is almost here, our community groups are starting back up! We officially launch them this coming weekend at our Sunday service where we'll meet group leaders, launch our groups and hear a message on God's design for living in community.

While we're unable to gather in person, we'll be utilizing both phone and Zoom. If you're currently not in a group, and would like to be, please reach out to Pastor John at john@arborheights.org or 206-375-2498 and we can get you connected!

Youth Ministry

Our Wednesday night youth group kicks off this evening, September 9th, via Zoom, at 7:00 pm. I hear there's going to be pickup pizza, pop and goody bags for everyone. What more could a student ask for!! If your son or daughter has not connected with Linnea to get the Zoom information, please let her know asap at linnea@arborheights.org.

Also, Linnea and Russ Barham are launching the Student Leadership Team at the end of the month. This is a small group of youth leaders in training developing both their character and competence to serve both inside and outside youth ministry.

Preschool

Our Preschool, "ARK Preschool", starts up this next week on Monday, September 14th. We are thrilled to begin school in person! We have a great group of teachers returning who are excited to teach and love on these young kids. If you have any questions about our preschool ministry, please email Loretta Kimball, our Director, at kimball@arborheights.org.

Arbor Heights Elementary Need

This past Sunday was our final week of giving grocery gift cards to Arbor Heights Elementary. Throughout the past 6 months, we have supported over 50 families and 170 individuals by giving over \$8,500 in gift cards. Thank you so much AHCC!

We're looking at some additional ways to give in the weeks ahead to stay tuned for more details.

Transparency

As of September 9th, there are no confirmed cases of AHCC members contracting the virus. If any AHCC member is known to be infected with COVID-19, the church body will be notified (privacy for the individual) and appropriate action taken.

Events

Outdoor Movie Night

What a great event! We had a wonderful turnout of AHCC people and lots of neighbors join us on August 29th for "Paddington" in the park. Thanks to everyone who helped make this a reality!

All-Church Prayer Night

Come join us next week, on Tuesday, September 15th at 7:00 pm at the church building, as we kick-off the fall with a time of prayer. We will be meeting at the church building in the basement Fellowship Hall. Masks will be required and we'll observe 6 ft. of social distance.

Fall Women's Event

Join the ladies online on Saturday, September 26th at 9:00 am for "Venture", our northwest fall women's conference. Come hear from Jen Schepens, Director of the C&MA short-term ministry Envision, as she shares two messages throughout the morning. You'll also hear from some of our field international workers through videos and interviews and have some breakout sessions with discussion questions and times for fellowship. You can find out more information about "Venture" and register [here](#).

Giving

We serve such a faithful God who has provided above and beyond our needs during this season. Thank you for your generosity AHCC, as we serve the most generous One of all.

If you have missed it in previous communications, below are the available giving options:

1. Give at our new Giving Station in the back of the sanctuary
2. Mail in your check. The church address is 4113 SW 102nd St., Seattle, WA 98146
3. Set up bill pay with your bank. You can contact your bank and ask to set up bill pay with AHCC and they can assist you.
4. Give online at our website under "Give"; www.arborheights.org
5. Give on the mobile app "Cash App" (you can find it in your App Store on your phone). Our account name is "\$ArborHeights". As a reminder, there are no fees when using a debit card, for the church or you, when using this method.

Never Get Thirsty

In a time when so many people are looking for answers in so many places; politics, social causes, COVID vaccines, world peace and personal happiness, I'm so thankful for the all-sufficiency of Christ. Jeremiah 2:13 says, "My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water."

There is a lot of digging going on right now in our culture and a lot of cisterns that can't hold water. These wells or cisterns sometimes hold water for a short time, convincing us we have found sanctuary, only later to start leaking, revealing their true insufficiency. Christ is not only an iron vat that will always hold water, He is a living spring that bubbles up with joy, hope and purpose for all.

Church, Jesus is that fulfilling. I pray in this time that we don't go chasing after broken cisterns, but find every need met in the living waters of Christ.

Refreshed and Full,

Pastor John